Amendment in the Coal Mines Act, 1973

482. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 has been amended to allow private Indian companies to mine coal and lignite for captive consumption and sale;

(b) if so, the targets for production of both the Public and Private Sector for the year 1997-98; and

(c) what has been achieved in the period April to September, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) In 1993 the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was amended to permit companies engaged in business of steel production, power generation and other end uses to mine coal. The Government are considering to amend further the Act to allow any Indian companies to mine coal.

(b) The target for production of coal in the country for the year 1997-98 is 297.45 Million tonnes. No target has been set for private sector production.

(c) The total production of coal in the country during the period April to September, 1997 is 121.54 Million tonnes.

Pollution in the Colliery area of Orissa

483. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the Times of India dated 21st July, 1997 regarding suffering of thousands of people living in the IB Valley open cast coalfield in the colliery area; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. The employees of Mahanadi Coalfields where other non-employees are staying. M.C.L. does not carry medical examination of people other than its own employees nor do MCL have any record of their medical examination. Health check-up of 3658 employees of MCL living in IB Valley has revealed that not even a .single case of pneumoconiosis has been detected and confirmed. However two suspected cases are yet to be confirmed by Pneumoconiosis Board. Two T.B. cases have been detected. It may be noted that diseases such as T.B. & other respiratory problems are not related to coal dust.

(b) Measures for control of coal dust taken by MCL include control of dust at generation point itself by adopting wet drilling, using dust extractors, doing controled blasting, dust suppression by automatic water sprinklers both fixed point as well as mobile. Black topping of roads, raising of green belts, use of dust suppressing chemical and regenerative air vacuum cleaner is under active consideration of the management. Regular monitoring of air, water, noise and soil is being done through Central Mine Research Institute at Dhanbad.

मध्य प्रदेश की विभित्र कोयला खानों में कोयला की मात्र

484. **श्री अजीत जोगी**:
श्री शमशेर सिंह सुरजेवाला:

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1995-96 और 199697 में मध्य प्रदेश में विभित्र कोयला खानों में कितना कोयला निकाला गया।

(ख) मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को कोयले पर कितनी राशि की रायल्टी दी गई और तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) बिहार सरकार को उपर्युक्त अविधि के दौरान कोयले के उत्पादन पर कितनी राशि की रायल्टी दी गई और इसकी दरें क्या है?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मतंरी (श्रीमती कान्ति सिंह): (क) वर्ष 1995-96 तथा 1996-97 के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश की विभित्र कोयला खानों से उत्पादित कोयले का ब्यौरा नीचे दिया गया है:-

(**मिलियन टन में**)

1995-96	1996-97 (3Rfiw)
79.76	83.28

(क) और (ग) मध्य प्रदेश तथा बिहार की राज्य सरकारों को भुगतान की गई रायल्टी की राशी तथा उसकी दरें नीचे दी गई है:-

(करोड़ रु.में)

1995-96		1996-97
मध्य प्रदेश	666.77	684.14
बिहा	658.33	682.77

दिनांक 11.10.1994 से संशोधित कोयले की विभित्र ग्रेडों की रायल्टी की दरें नीचे दी गई है:-

कोयला समुह	दिनांक 11.10.94 से रायल्टी दरें (रु प्रति टन)
ग्रुप-I (कोककर कोयला इस्पात ग्रेड-I, II, वाशरी ग्रेड- I)	195.00
ग्रुप-II (कोककर कोयला डब्ल्यु.जी. II, III. अर्द्ध कोककर I, II,, अ-कोककर ए.बी.)	
ग्रुप- III (कोककर कोयला डब्ल्यु.जी. IV अकोककर सी)	95.00
ग्रुप-IV (अ-कोककर डी.ई)	70.00
ग्रुप-V (अकोककर कोयला एफ.जी.	50.00
ग्रुप-VI आंध्र प्रदेश कोयला	75.00

Wheat Allegedly Diverted by FCI Officials

485. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news which appeared in the Times of India, dated October 13, 1997 that a large quantity of wheat worth several crores of rupees allegedly diverted by FCI officials for personal monetary benefit; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) 'Yes Sir. The entire matter relating to open Market Sale of wheat i.e. DMS (D) including it is diversion by FCI in Punjab and Haryana is being investigated by CBI under the supervision of Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh. On a public interest litigation (PIL) The Hon'ble Court delivered its judgement on 26.7.97 directing the Deputy Commissioners in the States of Punjab and Haryana to prepare reports on the basis of records available in FCI offices and to make the same available to CBI within two months for further investigaiton and launching prosecution against the erring parties, if found necessary.

Import of Wheat

486. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of wheat imported both by Government and Public Sector or State Trading Corporation during the year 1997-98;

(b) whether Government propose to consider and provide the same prices of wheat to the Indian farmers as being imported from other countries; and